

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 31, 2013

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to urge the Federal Communications Commission to consider ways to fully use all currently available Connect America Fund (CAF) resources in 2013 to meet our Nation's digital divide challenge.

Broadband enables new opportunities to improve economic development, education, and healthcare. Yet according to data from the Commission's Eighth Broadband Progress Report, nearly 300,000 New Mexicans, fourteen percent of our state's population, lack access to fixed broadband. The 2010 U.S. Census also reports that just 58 percent of New Mexicans use broadband at home when the national average is 80 percent. These statistics rank New Mexico 46th among U.S. States and highlight the digital divide challenge facing our State.

Many New Mexicans who do not have access to broadband live in rural areas served by "price cap" companies. Given the Commission's efforts to refine CAF rules to help such companies bring service to eligible unserved households, we urge you to consider proceeding this year with another round of CAF projects that fully uses universal service funds already set aside for this important work. Our understanding is that up to \$485 million in CAF I incremental support could be available in 2013.

This approach would be consistent with Section 254 of the Communications Act, which instructs the Commission to base its universal service policies on the principle that "[c]onsumers in all regions of the Nation, including low-income consumers and those in rural, insular, and high cost areas, should have access to telecommunications and information services... that are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas...."

We therefore respectfully request that you invest all available CAF I incremental support this year, thereby narrowing the digital divide in New Mexico and across the nation.

Thank you for your consideration within your rules and guidelines. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that all Americans enjoy access to broadband.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Stevan Pearce
United States Representative



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States Representative



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Office of the Director

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in its Universal Service Connect America Fund (CAF) proceeding. The Commission is dedicated to distributing all CAF funds in the most effective manner to preserve and advance voice and broadband service, including accelerating the deployment of modern communications networks to consumers who lack access to robust broadband. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Guice", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Office of the Director

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in its Universal Service Connect America Fund (CAF) proceeding. The Commission is dedicated to distributing all CAF funds in the most effective manner to preserve and advance voice and broadband service, including accelerating the deployment of modern communications networks to consumers who lack access to robust broadband. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Office of the Director

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in its Universal Service Connect America Fund (CAF) proceeding. The Commission is dedicated to distributing all CAF funds in the most effective manner to preserve and advance voice and broadband service, including accelerating the deployment of modern communications networks to consumers who lack access to robust broadband. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely,

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Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Office of the Director

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Michelle Grisham Lujan
U.S. House of Representatives
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Grisham Lujan:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in its Universal Service Connect America Fund (CAF) proceeding. The Commission is dedicated to distributing all CAF funds in the most effective manner to preserve and advance voice and broadband service, including accelerating the deployment of modern communications networks to consumers who lack access to robust broadband. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Guice", is written over the printed name.

Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs